



Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 2

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James; STM - St Thomas More school

Sat 1 Aug **Vigil of Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass: *Missa pro populo***

Sun 2 Aug **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Thanksgiving for Altar servers

11:00am PJ **Mass:** Gillian Northing, RIP

Mon 3 Aug **Feria**

10:00am PJ No liturgy

Tue 4 Aug **St John Mary Vianney, Priest - Memorial**

9:40am HC **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)

10:00am HC **Mass:** Thanksgiving for Pauline's treatment

Wed 5 Aug **Feria**

10:00am HC **Mass:** Paul Cox - healing
followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am

Thu 6 Aug **The Transfiguration of the Lord - Feast**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** The people of Donetsk

Fri 7 Aug **Feria**

10:00am HC **Mass:** Norman Arnold, RIP - 3rd anniversary

7:00pm PJ No liturgy

Sat 8 Aug **St Dominic, Priest - Memorial**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Ken Blackburn, RIP - 2nd Anniversary
followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Margaret Dunster, RIP

Sun 9 Aug **Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Ken Blackburn, RIP - 2nd anniversary

11:00am PJ **Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

1:00pm PJ **Baptism:** Aria Nia Powell

Celebrant: Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea

NB: We seek to open the Church **thirty minutes** before any Mass or liturgy

Responsorial Psalm:

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration

is on Wednesdays at HC after Mass until 11:00am and every Saturday from 11:00 - 11:15am in SsP&J.

Confirmation programme 2027 -

Applications for our **Youth Confirmation Programme 2026/27** are now open. Collect an application form from the narthex of the church or download from our website:

northbedfordcatholics.org.uk/sections/2027-confirmation-programme

Completed forms should be returned to the parish office at Holy Cross.

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 6th September.

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation, and **applicants will ordinarily be in academic year 9 or above.**

The other Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist) should have already been received, but we will accept baptised applicants that have not made their first reconciliation or communion, provided that they will be 18 or under at the time of Confirmation.

The programme of preparation will begin in October this year, leading to the Sacrament of Confirmation in September 2027. Classes take place at 4:00pm on Saturday during term-time, roughly every month. There is also a diocesan day retreat in the spring; **candidates need to be able to commit to attending all sessions.** Dates will be made available when the programme is finalised.

A donation of £40 is requested from all candidates to cover books/materials, administrative costs, and attendance at the Diocesan Blaze Retreat. This is payable at the commencement of the programme.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Crispin.

We welcome **Fr Patrick Hutton**, who will be celebrating the Saturday Vigil Mass, to our parish. We continue to hold him in our prayers.

The online **Rosary Group** meets from 8:00am to 8:20am weekdays on Zoom. ID: 833 1504 6319 Password: Rosary

The **Rosary and Divine Mercy Group** meets in SsP&J each Monday at 1:45pm. Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea.

Ss Philip and James Repository

SsP&J Repository is open before and after Mass on Sunday.

SsP&J Parish Office is closed until Tuesday, 18th August. The **Repository at HC** will also be closed during this period.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Philippa Anne Willis, RIP**. Her funeral liturgy will be at 1:00pm on Wednesday, 2nd September, in Holy Cross church.

Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM

Email: fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org

Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM

Email: frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org

The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX Tel: (01234) 352607

HC: Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

SsP&J/PJ: St Philip and St James Church, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX

Newsletters are available through **CASPAR**, and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically,

please register with **CASPAR**, either by **QR code** or by **hyperlink** →, and tick the relevant box.

(Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969

(Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whitehead 07955 670543 and SsP&J; Ann-Marie Blaney 07867 757598

Website: northbedfordcatholics.org.uk (Contact the Webmaster through the website) **Facebook: North Bedford Catholic Community**

Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Mondays and Thursdays: 9:00am - 12:00pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (closed until 18th August) Tel: (01234) 353116; Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org

Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel/text: 07986 357 320; email: charlie.stallard@gmail.com



PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

19th - 25th September 2026, £845 pp

Still Five places left!

Spiritual Director: Fr. Alex Ibe SMMM

£845

Sharing in twin or double room (single room +£210)

TRAVELLING

19th - 25th Sep. '26
7 days, London Luton with easyJet

HOW TO BOOK

Full details and booking form here:
www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1103
Deposit of £300 to confirm place.
Booking deadline 25th May 2026 to get the best price possible!

Organised by Mrs Hetty Okonji, tel. 07590731488

INCLUDED

- Return flight between London Luton and Split (with easyJet)
- 6 nights at: Hotel Marconi, Medjugorje, 4*, or similar standard
- Half board (breakfast and dinner)
- Check-in luggage 23kg + small hand carry
- Transfers between airport and hotel
- Executive coach for touring
- Professional English-speaking guide throughout
- UK Airport taxes and Government charges
- Personalised travel pack for each pilgrim including: hymn booklet, name badge and lanyard, luggage tag, general information booklet, flight information sheet, boarding passes where applicable

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Single room (limited availability), £210 for 6 nights
- Tips & Gratuities of £15 pp to be added to your invoice. Compulsory. Paid directly to guide, driver and hotel staff.

FULL DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM AT WWW.ALLSAINTSTRAVEL.CO.UK/MJ1103



All Saints Travel

web: www.allsaintstravel.co.uk
email: info@allsaintstravel.co.uk
phone: 01793 881100



North Bedford
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Parish Family Day and BBQ

...an opportunity to come together as a big family to celebrate, build, and strengthen our community life, fundraise for our youth's excursion/Fun Day, and give families a chance to enjoy each other outside of Mass.



Others include: burgers, hot dogs, salads, puds, etc. Bar is also available.

TICKETS
available after mass from 1st AUGUST

ADULTS: £5
12 YEARS AND UNDER: £2.50
UNDER 5 YEARS: FREE

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2026

4PM TO 8PM

AT HOLY CROSS

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND LAPSE CATHOLICS BACK IN A WELCOMING WAY.

... "Come, eat together, laugh together, pray together."

Diocesan Discernment Day for Vocations to the Priesthood

Are you wondering whether God may be calling you to the priesthood? You are warmly invited to attend the *Discernment Day for Vocations to the Priesthood* this **Saturday, 8th August at 10:30am.**

St Augustine Catholic Church, 1 Langcliffe Drive, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PL Contact: Fr Pius, Vocations Director
Email: vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org
or telephone: 01753 523147

Mass for Marriage and families

Saturday, 5th September at 12:00pm noon, in Northampton Cathedral, NN2 6AG. All are welcome. Register online: northamptondiocese.org/events/mass-to-celebrate-marriage-and-family-life/

Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy abuse in the church

The Jesuit Institute is offering a free online **Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy abuse in the church** from Sunday, 18th – Friday, 23rd October. Open to anyone affected directly or indirectly by clergy abuse, the week provides a gentle and prayerful opportunity for reflection, healing and hope. Hosted by Sarah Young, participants will receive daily prayer resources and spiritual accompaniment in a safe and supportive environment. This initiative recognises the lasting impact of abuse and seeks to accompany those who continue their journey towards healing. Participation is free, with all sessions taking place online from the comfort of home. See the link below: jesuitinstitute.org/events/an-online-week-of-guided-prayer-for-those-affected-by-clergy-abuse-in-the-church-3

Confirmation Mass 2026

The Area Dean, Fr Prasad Kasireddy, MSFS, will visit our united community to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our young people on Friday, 11th September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church.



St Vincent's
We are back!

Together, we can make a difference

1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday - Holy Cross Church



All existing **Altar Servers** and those who made their **First Holy Communion** recently and who would like to join the Altar Servers are encouraged to participate in the **Training and Pizza Gathering** to welcome new members. This training and welcome will be on **Wednesday, 2nd September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church.** We will also start rehearsing for the *Confirmation Mass* on Friday, 11th September. All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend.

The Clergy apologise for the distraction that occurred during the administration of Holy Communion last Sunday at Ss Philip and James. As a community we welcome the stranger and pray for them, especially those who may not understand our doctrines and the church's revered teachings.

RCIA – Journey into the Catholic Faith

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process in the Catholic Church that prepares adults for the sacraments of **Baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.** RCIA is open to people of different faith backgrounds who wish to become full members of the Catholic church. Are you - or someone you know - interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming Catholic? The programme will begin in September and runs in stages of study and prayer. Please email the parish office via parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or call 01234 353116 or 01234 352607 to register.

You may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches by use of these QR Codes.

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James





The North Bedford Catholic Community Pray and Play Summer Camp 2026



Praise be to God for another successful Pray and Play Summer Camp! A great time was had by all.

Thirty children from our parishes enjoyed a week of extended **Pray and Play**, praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary together, learning about Our Lady of Walsingham, the history of the Walsingham shrine and pilgrimages. The photos speak for themselves.

A big **THANK YOU** to the wonderful team of summer camp helpers and leaders: **Anna, Charlene, Christine, Clare, Louise, Joan, Judy, Onyii, Maria and Pat**. Thank you to **Kathy** for the refreshments and daily delicious delights. Thank you to our young leaders, **Melanie, Naomi, Nathaniel and Ruby** for the exciting games they led with the children and for being excellent role models for the children of our parishes.

God bless you, our parents and parishioners for your vital encouragement and support in prayers



